

Amendments to the Claim:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): ~~The apparatus of claim 2~~ An apparatus for insertion into a body lumen, said apparatus comprising:

an elongate member having proximal and distal ends, said distal end being insertable into the body lumen;

at least one clamping arm including a first end having a pivotal connection with said distal end of said elongate member, said pivotal connection providing pivotal movement of said at least one clamping arm relative to said elongate member, said at least one clamping arm extending away from said pivotal connection toward said proximal end of said elongate member; and

control means for controlling the pivotal movement of said at least one clamping arm relative to said elongate member, said control means being operatively connected with said at least one clamping arm; wherein

said at least one clamping arm is pivotal relative to said elongate member from a closed position in which said at least one clamping arm adjoins said elongate member to an open position in which said at least one clamping arm is pivoted away from said elongate member; and wherein

said at least one clamping arm comprises a first cup portion having a concave first receiving portion, said distal end of said elongate member comprising a second cup portion having a concave second receiving portion, said first and second receiving portions facing each other and forming between them a receptacle for receiving an object, said first and second cup portions being closable to close said receptacle when said at least one clamping arm is in said closed position.

Claim 13 (Original): The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said at least first and second cup portions each include a peripheral rim portion, at least one of said peripheral rim portions comprising a cutting edge.

Claims 14-17 (Canceled)

Claims 18 (Currently Amended): ~~The apparatus of claim 1 further~~
~~comprising:~~ An apparatus for insertion into a body lumen, said apparatus comprising:
an elongate member having proximal and distal ends, said distal end
being insertable into the body lumen;
at least one clamping arm including a first end having a pivotal
connection with said distal end of said elongate member, said pivotal connection
providing pivotal movement of said at least one clamping arm relative to said
elongate member, said at least one clamping arm extending away from said pivotal
connection toward said proximal end of said elongate member;

control means for controlling the pivotal movement of said at least one clamping arm relative to said elongate member, said control means being operatively connected with said at least one clamping arm; and

a positioning mechanism for supporting said elongate member and facilitating insertion of said elongate member into the body lumen, said positioning mechanism comprising:

an outer frame supportable relative to the body lumen;

an inner frame connected to said outer frame, said inner frame being rotatable about a first axis relative to said outer frame; and

an advance assembly connected to said inner frame, said advance assembly being pivotable about a second axis relative to said inner frame, said second axis extending perpendicular to said first axis, said advance assembly comprising a sleeve for receiving said elongate member and advancing means operative to impart advancement of said elongate member in opposite directions along a longitudinal axis of said elongate member.

Claim 19 (Original): The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said advance assembly further comprises first and second clamping members that form said sleeve for receiving said elongate member, said advance assembly further comprising a locking mechanism operative to place said advance assembly in a locked condition wherein said clamping members clamp onto said elongate member to fix the position of said elongate member relative to said advance assembly, said locking mechanism being further operable to place said advance assembly in an advancing condition wherein said elongate member is released for movement relative to said advance assembly along said longitudinal axis of said elongate member.

Claim 20 (Original): The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said advancing means comprises a rack and pinion gear set for imparting movement of said elongate member along said longitudinal axis, said rack and pinion gear set comprising a series of rack teeth arranged along an outer surface of said elongate member and a pinion gear having teeth meshingly engaged with said rack teeth, said pinion gear being rotatable to impart movement of said elongate member along said longitudinal axis.

Claims 21-24 (Canceled)

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): ~~The apparatus of claim 21~~ An apparatus
for insertion into a body lumen, said apparatus comprising:

an elongate member having proximal and distal ends, said distal end
comprising forceps including at least one clamping arm with a first end having a
pivotal connection with said distal end of said elongate member, said at least one
clamping arm extending away from said pivotal connection toward said proximal end
of said elongate member; and

control means for controlling the pivotal movement of said at least one
clamping arm relative to said elongate member; wherein

said forceps comprise cup forceps for cutting a tissue sample from
within the body lumen, said at least one clamping arm comprising a first cup portion
having a concave first receiving portion, said distal end of said elongate member
comprising a second cup portion having a concave second receiving portion, said
first and second receiving portions facing each other and forming between them a
receptacle for receiving the tissue sample.

Claims 26-33 (Canceled)